

*San Juan*

Committee on Rules  
Statement on Rule for Agriculture Appropriations  
Offered by Mr. Farr of California  
June 21, 2012

Thank you, Chairman Dreier and Ranking Member Slaughter for holding this hearing today.

I come before you as the Ranking Member on the Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittee and ask that you provide an Open Rule for consideration of the FY2013 Agriculture Appropriations legislation.

I know we are in tough budgetary times but even in the toughest times we must invest in the future of agriculture.

In my opinion, this bill makes that hard to do.

The allocation for FY2013 Agriculture Appropriations Bill as approved in Full Committee is \$19.405 billion.

This is:

- \$1.7 billion or 8% below the 2013 President's request;
- \$365 million or 1.8% below 2012 enacted

And I would also point out that it is \$1.38 billion below the Senate which set their allocation based on the bipartisan Budget Control Act of 2011.

While I support a much more robust investment in rural America, I also have concerns we are failing to provide enough resources to meet the goals and properly implement what Congress envisioned with passage of

*Tough Economic Times =*

*Rural America  
in a  
depression  
USDA is  
our rural  
America  
Agency.*

Dodd/Frank in financial reform and the Food Safety Modernization Act to safeguard our nation's food supply grown domestically, as well as, imports coming into the United States.

I think there comes a point in budget exercises when you starve the program so much, it just can't function and I fear that's where this bill is going.

A case in point is the \$25 million cut to the CFTC which will hurt the American economy and the American taxpayer because at this level the Commission will have to RIF employees and delay purchasing IT equipment and technology. This could result in the American taxpayer having to pony up again to yet again more bailouts since the CFTC will not be able to give proper oversight.

I know my friend and chairman, Mr. Kingston, did the best he could do in producing a bill with the budget allocation he was given.

I again want to thank Chairman Kingston publicly for his efforts to keep our side of the aisle informed as the process moved through Committee. I look forward to working with him as we take this bill to the floor and to conference with the Senate.

Agriculture is about producing the food and fiber people need in their daily lives. Here in Congress, our responsibility is to make certain America has the production capabilities and enough food to meet demand domestically, as well as internationally.

This bill almost makes that difficult if not impossible, especially with a 22% cut to Food for Peace.

The bill calls into question the United States' commitment to our international neighbors who have hungry and malnourished people that depend on our assistance to stave off mass starvation.

Recent history demonstrates that struggles to gain access to food can easily erupt in violence, instability, and health epidemics.

PL 480 has fought hunger and offered hope to some 3 billion people in 150 countries.

But the impact is also felt right here in this country, too. PL 480 provides US-grown commodities to hungry people around this world. And in so doing, it supports about 44,000 US jobs in farming, processing, and shipping, according to industry analysts.

So, this cut hurts American jobs at a time of high levels of unemployment. And it also hurts food insecure regions at a time of high levels of hunger and famine.

There's a reason it's called Food for Peace. Because there's no better national security strategy than peace.

Mr. Chairman, as we move this bill through the process I am again, asking for an Open Rule so that every member of the House will have the opportunity to reshape this bill as best as possible.

I thank you for your consideration and hope you will give us an Open Rule.